

Waverley

Belmont.

Lyme Regis.

Dorset.

The Librarian

Dear Sir

In answer to
your request I enclose
you a copy of my
report as M. S. It.
for Lyme Regis -

After making what
extracts you require

may I ask you to kindly
return the manuscript—
as I have to supply
~~several~~ three offices
with a copy each

Yours faithfully

Richard Bangay

Copy

Lyme Regis
March 1st 1896

To the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Sir

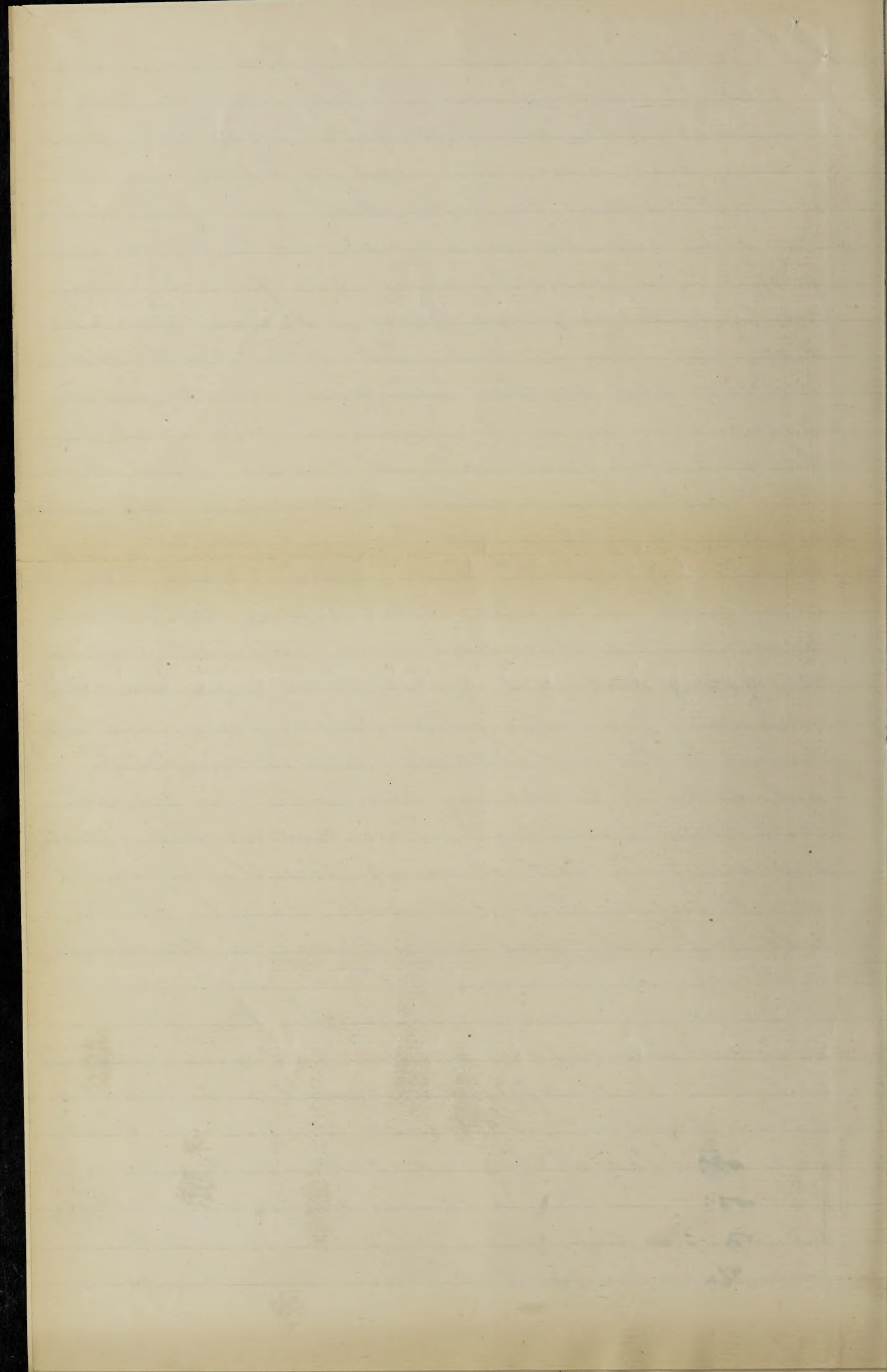
I am glad to be able to present you with a more favourable report concerning the health and mortality of the Borough during the past year of 1895 than has been possible before during the last five years dating from the commencement of the recurrent annual series of Influenza epidemics which have prevailed. Influenza has however been more or less present in isolated cases during the past year and became again epidemic in a mild form in the autumn complicated with an epidemic of whooping cough. Two deaths having occurred from the latter disease up to the end of December. The general good health and low mortality which marked the first six months is quite phenomenal, the deaths from "natural causes" only numbering six during that time which included March, usually the heaviest month in the year, giving a rate of mortality for the first half of the year of a fraction less than 3 per 1000, having an annual value of less than 6 per 1000, as compared with the 19 deaths which took place during the same period in the previous year & which gave an annual rate of a little over 16 per 1000.

The death-rate of a rural district (and Lyme is practically such a district in a sanitary point of view) is under ordinary circumstances largely governed by seasonal and climatic influences. The weather during the first-half of the year was remarkable - The sky was unprecedentedly cloudless and the rainfall registered at the

Providence Observatory during that time was only 11 inches, almost the half of which fell in January. The air throughout was cool and bracing even up to the end of June.

Notwithstanding the higher death-rate of the latter half of the year the average rate for the whole year is still very favorable being 13.5 per 1000. Only once before during my term of office has the death rate been so low - Two of the deaths were suicides and another took place under such circumstances as to remove it also from the list of "deaths from natural causes". Had these three deaths been omitted the annual rate would have been reduced to less than 12 per 1000.

The effect of an inclement season upon the mortality in a place like Lynn hits more heavily upon the poor and especially upon the young and aged of that class, who have little means of protecting themselves from its effects owing to the inadequate accommodation and lack of necessary comforts in connection with their dwellings. Their rooms being small and draughty and opening directly upon the street expose the occupants severely to the cold and wet and considering in connection with this the poorness of their food and the deficiency of warm clothing for the children it is not difficult to understand why Bronchitis and other chest-affections should be so prevalent amongst them - That such complaints should be so terribly fatal amongst the children of the poor can also be easily understood when we consider the entire absence of bedroom fire-places in most of their dwellings.



The excess of mortality which invariably accompanies a season of severe weather in the lower localities of the town is largely due to such causes - Hence also the low mortality during the sunny and dry months of 1895 when these causes did not operate.

I have performed the regulation duties of periodically inspecting the lath-houses, slaughter-houses and dairies and have found no faults to complain of. I have also made a number of sanitary visitations in company with the Sanitary Inspector and a great many necessary improvements in connection with the sanitation of house and other property have been satisfactorily carried out - during the year. The important question of a larger water supply having been definitely settled the work of carrying out the scheme has been commenced and is making fair progress.

I herewith enclose the usual tabulated form in which the causes of the deaths are duly classified and in which you will observe there are no deaths from zymotic diseases ~~with the exception of~~ the few cases of whooping cough already referred to

Yours obedient Servant
Richard Baugay
Medical Officer of Health
Lyne Regis

Population total - 2370

{ General death-rate 13.5 per 1000

{ Infants - under one year 3.8 per 1000

Number of Births 46